
DE News

August 10, 2001 - Iowa Department of Education - Ted Stilwill, Director

Back to school

In a few weeks, more than 500,000 Iowa kids will enter the doors of some of the finest schools in the nation. Like our students, we know that our teachers and administrators also rank among the best and brightest. Your quality and commitment are the driving force behind the strength of our educational system – strength that is demonstrated through higher levels of student achievement and learning.

The 2001-02 school year is sure to have its share of challenges, but no doubt also will be very rewarding in a number of big and small ways. Whether it's helping a struggling child learn to read, developing artistic or technical skills in youngsters, or inspiring a star student to reach new heights, we get daily reminders of why we chose this profession.

Fall focus for K-12: Continue implementation of teacher compensation

We're very encouraged by the large number of districts signing up for the various components of the new teacher compensation policies. Your willingness to spend precious summer hours learning the new system and evaluating the benefits for your districts prove high dedication on your part and will have a positive influence on our lawmakers.

- Keep in mind these important deadlines:

August 15 or November 1 are the deadlines for the DE to receive applications for the mentoring and induction (Option 1) programs. You can find the applications on our website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/programs/tc/mentorapp.doc>. Remember that you'll need to sign up for this Option if you plan to participate in Option 2.

October 1 is the NEW DEADLINE for districts to apply for a team-based variable pay pilot (Option 3). The deadline was extended to allow building staff to participate in discussions. You can find the applications on our website at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/programs/tc/pilotapp.doc>

November 1 is the deadline for the DE to receive applications for the career path (Option 2) portions. You'll need to complete a statement of participation, found at <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/programs/tc/participation.doc>.

- All participating districts must apply using the official application forms on our website.
- The website contains other important documents like a worksheet to help you calculate salary increases.
- Check the FAQ section to see the latest updates. You can submit a new question through this link: www.edinfo.state.ia.us/tcdiscussion/post.asp.

- DE staff plan to attend superintendents' meetings in September to provide updates and gain additional feedback from educators.

UEN releases high school report

The Urban Education Network has released its report on redesigning high schools. Many of the recommendations will be helpful in leading community discussions about what high schools need to do to better meet student needs. You can learn more about the UEN at <http://www.des-moines.k12.ia.us/quickref/UEN/index.html>.

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